

SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
Annual Report
2005-2007

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I. Mission

It is the mission of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board to work as a collegial unit to develop strong community leadership and organization, and to invest its best efforts to ensure that the Silver Spring Region is a livable and vibrant community where housing, employment, schools, community organizations, parks and community services are located together, flourish in a safe and hospitable environment, and are conveniently accessible by appropriate and environmentally friendly modes of transportation.

The Board advises the County Executive and the County Council, and other appropriate governmental bodies, when and where appropriate on policies and programs, proposing solutions to problems and recommending actions. As it pursues this mission, it works with and consults the Director of the Silver Spring Regional Service Center and other county governmental officials.

II. Board Information

The Board has 18 members and has three standing committees:

- Commercial and Economic Development
- Neighborhoods
- Transportation and Pedestrian Safety

A list of current Board Members and the neighborhoods they represent is located at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/Content/RSC/SilSprng/BoardsCommittees/citizenadvisoryboard.asp> .

Additionally, at that same website, minutes of past board meetings, information about the committee meeting (times and locations), and other Board information is listed and is updated regularly.

III. Committee Reports

Commercial and Economic Development

Advisory Board Co-Chair: Philip Olivetti

Community Co-chair: Chris Bombaugh

The committee focuses on commercial and economic development issues that have an impact on creating a vibrant urban Silver Spring community. This includes the renewal and rebuilding of the region's commercial centers, plans and actions of the region's stakeholders, extension of revitalization of the Silver Spring Central Business District and other commercial centers, outreach, building partnerships, communication and marketing the services and facilities of the region's commercial centers. We also focus on sectional maps, master plans, the physical infrastructure, intelligent land use, demystifying zoning and quality of life issues.

Topics/ Issues / Projects area addressed in 2006/2007

- Civic Building and Veterans Plaza
- Removing developer disincentives to street level retail (Zoning Text Amendment - ZTA)
- Expanding the use of our public alleys
- Understanding how planning works in the County
- Urban Land Institute (ULI) study "Developing a Retail Strategy for Silver Spring"
- Changing public use space funding to permit pooling of resources (ZTA)
- "Minimizing small business displacement in Silver Spring" – University of Maryland
- Parking meters – increased hours of operation
- Proposed Falkland properties development – E/W Highway
- Historical significance of Falkland Chase apartment complex
- Proposed United Therapeutics development – Cameron / Spring
- Proposed Moda Vista residential complex – Fenton / Silver Spring
- Proposed 814 Thayer residential development – Thayer / Fenton
- Proposed Silver Spring library – Fenton / Wayne / Bonifant
- Montgomery Hills Commercial Revitalization – streetscapes
- Proposed development at 949 to 961 Bonifant
- Bringing Birchmere to Silver Spring
- Proposed developments in the Ripley District
- Proposed Transit Center (includes private developments)

Neighborhoods

Advisory Board Committee Chair:

Alan Bowser

Community Committee Chair:

Anita Morrison

In the period 2006-2007, the Neighborhoods Committee of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory discussed a range of issues of importance to the Silver Spring community, including public safety, environmental protection, historic preservation, affordable housing, education, health care, senior and aging issues, homelessness, immigration, and County budget priorities. The Committee also gave special consideration to the Northwest Park/Oakview, Long Branch, South Silver Spring, and Takoma Park/Langley Park neighborhoods.

The Neighborhoods Committee wants to extend its appreciation to the many individuals who have supported its work over the past year, including Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board members Alan Bowser, Board Chair; Charlotte Coffield, Darian Unger, Debbie Spielberg, Eric Hensal, Jerry Yokoyama, John Evanoff, Kathy Stevens, Mark Woodard, Mary Pat Spon, Mitch Warren, and Victor Salazar and its non-Board Committee members Anita Morrison, Community Chair, Neighborhoods Committee, Long Branch Advisory Committee; Caren Madsen, Montgomery County Civic Federation; Chris Richardson, Park Hills Civic Association; Elnora Harvey; Evan Glass, South Silver Spring Neighborhood Association; Lisa Dubai, The Johns Hopkins University; Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society; Martha Waddy, New Hampshire Estates Civic Association; Mary Reardon, Silver Spring Historical Society; Sally Gagne, Friends of Sligo Creek; and Wayne Goldstein, Montgomery County Civic Federation.¹ Special thanks to the Silver Spring

¹ Additionally, the Committee is pleased to recognize the contributions and participation of the following individuals over the last year: Tom Perez, Montgomery County Council; Carl Blake, Chair, Silver Spring Recreation Advisory Board; Cdr. Mitch Cunningham, 3rd District, Montgomery County Police Dept.; Cdr. Betsy Davis, 3rd District, Montgomery County Police Dept.; Lt. Steve Auger, Montgomery County Police Dept.; Sgt. Tom Harmon, Montgomery County Police Dept.; Ofc. Kevin Sullivan, Montgomery County Police Dept.; Alex Wertheim, Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services; David Chikvashvili, Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs; David Lake, Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection; John Kenney, Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services; Luann Korona, Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs; Roylene Roberts, Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs; Ruth Martin, Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services, Montgomery Cares; Wajeda Rab, Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs; Marion Clark, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Scott Gutschick, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service; Bruce Lohr, MD Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Calvin Farr, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Jim Neustadt, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; and Rudy Chow, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

The Committee also recognizes the participation of Cynthia Rubenstein, co-Chair, Long Branch Advisory Committee; Henry Oderian, South Silver Spring Community Neighborhood Association; Bronson Lee, Silverton Community; Jeff Trask, North Woodside Montgomery Hills Civic Association; Lou Welanetz, North Hills of Sligo Civic Association; Roxanne Mirabal Beltran, Northwood Four Corners Civic Association; Tony Hauser, Presidents' Council of Downtown Silver Spring Civic Associations; Anne Vorce, Friends of Sligo Creek; Kathleen Samiy, Friends of Sligo Creek; Mike Smith, Friends of Sligo Creek; Elizabeth Merritt, National Trust for Historic Preservation; John Parrish, Maryland Native Plant Society; Erwin Mack, Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority; Gretchen Hilburger, C-SAFE; Mary Kendall, C-SAFE; Diana Bernhardt, Community Vision/Community Ministries; Doyle Currey, Community Vision/Community Ministries; Pablo Rubio, Community Vision/Community Ministries; Aurelia Martin, IMPACT Silver Spring; Chan Park, IMPACT Silver Spring; Becky Reeve, Friends of the Library; Hermoine Freeman, Friends of the Library; Jim Polk, Friends of the Library; Harry Sanders, Action Committee for Transit; Webb Smedley, Coalition to Build the Inner Purple Line; Gustavo Torres, Casa de Maryland; Tom Kenny, Silver Spring Moose Lodge; Jennifer Deseo, Silver Spring Penguin;

Regional Services Center staff: Vicki Lockerman, Muriel Bowser and Gary Stith, SSRSC Director. The Committee wishes to especially acknowledge the dedicated and professional work of its SSRSC staff liaison Mel Tull.

Topics/ Issues / Projects area addressed in 2006/2007

June 19, 2006

MCPD Third District Commander Mitch Cunningham – crime trends, public safety and MCPD police procedures

Caren Madsen – key Silver Spring and Montgomery County environmental issues

Marion Clark, M-NCPPC – green urbanism

Muriel Bowser – Northwest Park/Oakview Weed & Seed Program.

July 17, 2006

MCPD Third District Commander Mitch Cunningham – crime trends, public safety and MCPD police procedures

Muriel Bowser – Northwest Park/Oakview Weed & Seed Program.

Caren Madsen – Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law and an urban forest policy.

Bruce Lohr, Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute, MD Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services – personal safety

Aurelia Martin and Chan Park, Board members of IMPACT Silver Spring—Impact Silver Spring

September 18, 2006

MCPD Lt. Steve Auger – recent crime trends and public safety issues in the Silver Spring area.

Gustavo Torres, Executive Director, CASA – the origins, objectives, and programs of Casa de Maryland.

John Evanoff – proposal to rename the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board as the Silver Spring Community Advisory Board.

October 16, 2006

MCPD Ofc. Kevin Sullivan – recent crime trends and public safety issues in the Silver Spring area.

Martha Waddy – Northwest Park-Oakview Weed & Seed Program

Montgomery County Councilmember (District 5) Tom Perez – issues related to Silver Spring's progress and challenges for the future

November 20, 2006

MCPD Ofc. Kevin Sullivan – recent crime trends and public safety issues in the Silver Spring area.

Christine Ulbricht; Clarence Steinberg; David Belluch; David Paris; Don Tatum; Ed Gabay; Felicia Eberling; Julia Madsen; Lindley Vann; Lolly Vann; Margaret Daniels; Melissa Avery; Pamela Parker; Rukiyat Gilbert, Southern Management; Sharon Zalewski; and Susan Zusy.

Luann Korona and Wajeda Rab, Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs – County's plans for a pedestrian bridge that would connect the Long Branch Community Center with the Long Branch Public Library

Sally Gagne, Friends of Sligo Creek – invasive plant removal program

Alex Wertheim, Montgomery County Dept. of Health and Human Services; Doyle Currey, Diana Bernhardt, and Pablo Rubio of Community Vision/Community Ministries – homelessness in Montgomery County

December 18, 2006

Martha Waddy – Northwest Park/Oakview Weed & Seed Program

Alan Bowser – draft amendment of the Board's bylaws regarding consideration of local development projects proposed by public and private sector developers.

Dr. John "Jay" Kenny, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, of the MCC Dept. of Health and Human Services – the "Silver Tsunami" and a wide range of issues concerning the senior and disability population in Montgomery County.

Scott Gutshick, Senior Planning Specialist, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue – the update of the County Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan.

January 29, 2007

Martha Waddy – Northwest Park/Oakview Weed & Seed Program

Jerry Yokoyama – police procedure best practices from several U.S. jurisdictions

Ruth Martin, Montgomery Cares Administrator – the County's health care assistance to the uninsured.

Woodside Forest residents – Paper Roads

Alan Bowser – Sligo Creek Pollution

Committee discussion – Montgomery County FY07 Operating Budget Priorities

February 26, 2007 (Joint Meeting with Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee)

Martha Waddy – Northwest Park/Oakview Weed & Seed Program

Mitch Warren – WMATA fare increases.

Debbie Spielberg – ICC construction and public transit

Alan Bowser – Board bylaws amendment regarding consideration of development proposals.

Erwin Mack, Executive Director, Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority (CDA) – the history, objectives, and accomplishments of the CDA.

Gretchen Hilburger, CSAFE Community Organizer – the International Corridor CSAFE (Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement) Program--a unique multi-jurisdictional collaborative initiative between the City of Takoma Park, Prince George's County and Montgomery County.

March 19, 2007

Victor Salazar, Site Coordinator, Northwest Park/Oakview Weed & Seed Program – recent program developments.

MCPD 3rd District Commander Betsy Davis – recent trends and issues affecting public safety in Silver Spring.

Elizabeth Merritt, Deputy General Counsel, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Marcie Stickle and Mary Reardon, Silver Spring Historical Society; Wayne Goldstein, Montgomery Preservation, Inc. and John Parrish, Maryland Native Plant Society – Silver Spring historic preservation issues.

April 16, 2007

MCPD Lt. Steve Auger – recent crime incidents in the Silver Spring area

Cynthia Rubenstein, co-Chair, Long Branch Advisory Committee; Anita Morrison, Long Branch Advisory Committee and co-Chair, SSCAB Neighborhoods Committee; and Roylene Roberts, Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs – developments in Long Branch

May 21, 2007

MCPD Lt. Steve Auger – recent crime incidents in the Silver Spring area

Martha Waddy – Northwest Park Oakview Weed and Seed program.

Marcie Stickle and Mary Reardon, Silver Spring Historical Society – key historic preservation issues in Silver Spring.

Tom Kenny, Governor, Silver Spring Moose Lodge – recent development regarding the Moose Lodge, located on Wayne Avenue.

Alan Bowser – renovation of Nolte Park athletic fields by the Montgomery County Parks Dept.

Additional Issues Addressed in 2005-06

Affordable Housing Issues: Accessory Apartments, Moderately Price Dwelling Units, Condo Conversion, Workforce Housing

Public Safety Issues: Community Policing, Youth Violence and Gangs, After School Programs, 911 Emergency Call System, Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, Area Weed & Seed Programs, Area Code Enforcement

Arts, Entertainment & Culture Issues: Old Blair Auditorium, Library Use, Library Parking

Environmental Issues: Invasive Plants, Tree Maintenance, Clean Air, Storm Water Management, Forest Conservation Law, Long Branch Earth Day,

Development Review & Planning Issues: First Baptist Church, Washington Adventist Hospital Building, Long Branch Development, Northwest Park/Broad Acres Development - Civic Building & Veterans Plaza, Housing Opportunities Commission Community Notification,

Public Health Issues: Area Health Services, Pandemic Flu, Animal Control Issues.

Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Advisory Board Co-Chair: **Darian Unger** (Elected in June 2006, Reelected in June 2007)

Community Co-Chair: **Dale Tibbits** (June 2006-November 2006)
Philip Strong (Elected in June 2007)

Regular board member attendees:

Darian Unger	Kathy Stevens
Vic Weissberg	Phil Olivetti
Alan Bowser	Mary Pat Spon
Mitch Warren	Debbie Spielberg

Regular community attendees:

Sgt. Tom Harmon (MCPD)	Harry Sanders
Webb Smedley	Bob Colvin
Philip Strong	Nicole Strong
Dale Tibbits	Karen Roper

Topics/ Issues / Projects area addressed in 2006/2007

Purple line:

The committee met with an array of stakeholders to discuss and present Purple Line issues and concerns. Groups which presented or shared ideas/concerns included the

- Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce
- East Silver Spring Citizens Association
- Recreation Advisory Board
- Representatives of the Lyttonsville neighborhood
- Purple Line Now
- Maryland Transit Authority (MTA)

Opposing presentations were staggered over different months to avoid brawls. The committee expressed community concerns –including noise, safety, neighborhood divisions, property values, street division, property seizures, slow route selection, and

environmental damage – to the MTA on behalf of neighbors. Proponents pointed towards improved public transit, safety, reduced traffic, and environmental benefits.

The committee also conducted a walking tour of some of the proposed alignments. The board has repeatedly favored the construction of the purple line, but favors alignments that are underground and neighborhood-friendly.

Traffic and pedestrian safety in Silver Spring:

The committee kept abreast of pedestrian and traffic injuries – and deaths – and discussed many individual traffic signals, crosswalks, street lights and traffic lights that need improvement. Concerns were shared with either the county DPWT or state officials, depending on the type of road/authority. The committee also met with DPWT to discuss sidewalk construction and repair. The committee coordinated with the Montgomery County Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian Safety Coordinator to identify key trouble spots that require repair, changes, or improvements. Finally, the committee welcomed the police enforcement efforts and urged the county to increase the size of police traffic squads to match the growing traffic population.

Kennett Street Garage (South Silver Spring):

The committee supported the South Silver Spring Citizens Association in its effort to prevent the pedestrian-unfriendly opening of an entrance/exit ramp for the Kennett St. garage. The committee and its members met with residents from South Silver Spring, DPWT officials, and county councilors to resolve the issue and make physical and signage safety improvements.

New and Interim Silver Spring Transit Center:

The committee met with WMATA and county officials to learn about and discuss plans for the new Silver Spring transit center and the interim transit center that would handle tens of thousands of commuters during construction. The committee expressed concerns about commuter's walking distances, general safety, traffic effects, bus lanes, and street crossings.

On other issues, the committee also

- received updates on bicycle paths in the area, and viewed the lack of progress in creating new lanes
- met with the neighborhoods committee and the Takoma/Langley to discuss pedestrian education and safety measures in Langley Park and Takoma Park.
- supported the East Silver Spring Citizens Association and South Silver Spring Citizens Association in requesting traffic and pedestrian studies from DPWT
- reviewed the design plans for Veterans Plaza and urged more grassy areas alongside the walkways and pavilion/ice rink
- reviewed steps to make the Forest Glen Pedestrian Bridge safer through enforcement, improved lighting, and other design measures, and urged DPWT to speed its improvements.

- reviewed proposed WMATA fare changes, compared the fares to those of other cities, and opposed WMATA fare increases.
- urged the county to move forward with the consolidated transportation plan and improve traffic conditions in Montgomery Hills
- reviewed costs and effects of the ICC and wrote in opposition to the plan
- reviewed alternative Vango paths and made route suggestions, in addition to urging funding for system expansion additional hours of operation
- lobbied DPWT to systemically improve misleading countdown traffic signals, and then expand the number of those signals
- supported additional sidewalk construction in Silver Spring
- supported the opening of an additional Southwest entrance to the Silver Spring Metro station

Finally the committee, its chair, or its members went to several individual community meetings, neighborhood association meetings, and building tenants' meetings to meet with residents and discuss traffic and pedestrian safety concerns with them.

Necessary improvements and suggestions for next year should include more rapid follow-up, finding a better way to provide sustained pressure beyond initial letters of concern or complaint, and dealing with construction issues.

Other issues address in 2005-06

Silver Spring Transit Center: Final design and implementation plans and plans for the interim center.

Silver Spring Metro: Identifying a potential south entrance.

Takoma Langley Transit Center

Pedestrian Safety: Enforcement, traffic countdown signals, sidewalks

Speed Cameras: The New Montgomery County Pilot program.

Bicycle Paths

Purple Line/bi-county transitway

Parking: Within the Silver Spring Central Business District

Beltway Widening

Montgomery Hills: Highway and road improvements

Transportation Management District Advisory Committee: Identifying Appointees

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